(c) by when Government propose to ratify ILO convention and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) ILO Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment inter-alia, requires the ratifying State to pursue a national policy to ensure effective abolition of child labour and raise progressively the minimum age for admission to employment or work to a level consistent with fullest physical and mental development of young persons. The minimum age to be specified should not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and, in any case, should not be less than 15 years. Countries whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed may, after consultation with employers and workers organisations may initially specify a minimum age of 14 years. For any type of employment or work which is likely to jeopardise the health, safety or morals of young persons the minimum age shall not be less than 18 years or 16 years under certain conditions.

The policy of the Government of India is to ban employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines and hazardous employments and to regulate the working conditions of children in other employments. For this purpose the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and other labour laws regulating the age for admission to employment are being implemented.

The Government has not yet ratified ILO Convention No. 138 because as of now, there is no ominibus provision in our labour laws prohibiting children below a certain age from doing any work whatsoever. However, it is felt that legislation alone will not be able to solve the problem of child labour, which is a complex set of economic, social and other developmental issues. A definite action plan has been adopted to implement the National Child Labour Policy. The plan comprises of (i) legislative action, (ii) focussing on general development programmes for benefitting children and (iii) Project-based action in areas where child labour is concentrated. All these are being strengthened. The implementation of these programmes will facilitate the ratification of ILO Convention No. 138.

Enhancement of Trade With China

1439. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China intends to treble their import-export with India;

(b) if so, the items in which China propose to intend to boost its import-export with India;

(c) whether Government have indentified any new items to be exported to China; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Though the Government of the People's Republic of China have not specifically signalled the intention of trebling their import-export with India, yet both China and India have emphasised time and again through the mechanism of the "India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations and Trade, Science and Technology", that there exists great potential for mutual cooperation in a number of fields and have agreed to adopt measures to strengthen economic cooperation. The trend of Chinese exports/imports *vis-a-vis* India over the last few years, as per DGCI & Statistics, has been as under:

Year	Export of India	Imports from India	Total Trade
			(Rs. Crores)
1992-93	365	409	774
1993-94	972	857	1629
1994-95	2368	799	3167

In the Protocol for the year 1994-95 signed between China and India, items of import interest for both the countries have been identified as under :—

Items of import interest of China	Items of import interest for India.
Mineral Ores	Raw silk and silk yarn.
Iron & Steel Products	Agricultural Products and Native Produce.
Agricultural Products Chemicals	Light Industrial products and stationery.
Engineering Products	Metals and minerals
Plywood	Chemicals and petroleum products
Jewels and Processed	Fresh water cultivated pearls.
Diamonds	Engineering products
Synthetic fibre and yarn.	Pharmaceuticals.
	Newprint.

Infrastructural Requirements for export promotion

1440. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minsiter of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the infrastructural requirements for export promotion; and

(b) how does Government propose to bring improvements in these infrastructural requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Export infrastructure requirements relate to utilities, production, energy, transportation, communication, banking, customs, service functions, etc., and are catered to by Government Departments, public and private agencies.

The export infrastructure in the country needs to be strengthened consistent with the surge in exports. Govt. has been taking measures progressively in regard to each sector. Communication links and technologies are being upgraded. Infrastructural investments for input support to production are underway. Procedural simplifications are under continuous implementations. In regard to transportation increased recourse has been taken to containerisation and multimodal transport of goods with attendant strengthening of the infrastructure at ports. In order to consolidate export cargp, Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFSs) are being established at various locations in the country involving the private sector as well. An Open Sky Policy for carriage of Air Cargo has been introduced to augment air cargo capacity.

Royalty on Coal

1441. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether royalty on Coal is paid on the basis of production of coal or despatch of coal;

(b) whether a request from any State suggesting changes in the basis of royalty paid has been received recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken on this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (AHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The existing rates of royalty on coal are on tonnage basis on coal produced.

(b) to (d) In Memorandum recently submitted by the State Government of Bihar to the Prime Minsiter of India. a request has inter-alia, been made for fixation of rovalty rate on coal on advalorem basis. The State Government of Bihar had made such request earlier to the Study Group set up by the Ministry of Coal on 20.1.1994 to consider the question of revision of royalty rates on coal. The views of the various State Government had been considered by the Study Group before making its recommendations.